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2008/9
Report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2007, including the statistical and financial review

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the documents that make up the report of the UNFPA Executive Director for 2007 (DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part I), DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part I, Add.1) and DP/2008/23/Add.1-DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part II));

2. *Also takes note* of the progress made in aligning UNFPA programming to the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, in response to the national priorities of programme countries;

3. *Recognizes* the significance of increasing contributions and achieving stability and predictability in contributions to UNFPA regular resources, which are the bedrock of UNFPA operations;

4. *Recognizes* that timeliness in the payment of contributions is essential to maintaining liquidity and to facilitating continuous programme implementation in assisting countries in achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Takes note of* progress with regard to results-based management and *urges* UNFPA to continue to improve results-based management indicators and baselines.

20 June 2008

2008/10
Funding commitments to UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on funding commitments to UNFPA (DP/FPA/2008/9), *welcomes* the substantial increase in the 2007 regular income level of UNFPA and the increase in the 2007 co-financing income, and *also welcomes* the contributions made by programme countries;

2. *Emphasizes* that regular resources are the bedrock of UNFPA and essential to maintaining the multilateral, neutral and universal nature of its work, and *encourages* UNFPA to further mobilize these resources while also continuing to mobilize supplementary resources for its thematic funds and programmes;

3. *Recognizes* that sustaining and improving the UNFPA funding level will require countries that are in a position to do so to increase their contributions during the period of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Encourages* all countries in a position to do so to make contributions early in the year and to make multi-year pledges;

5. *Emphasizes* that UNFPA needs strong political support and increased financial support, in particular increased and predictable core funding, in order to enhance its assistance to countries to enable them to fully integrate the agenda of the International Conference on Population and Development into national development strategies and frameworks.

20 June 2008

2008/11
UNFPA and UNDP draft country programme documents[1]

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2006/9 on cost-efficient approaches to providing programme-level data;

2. *Commends* UNFPA for providing this information in connection with the review and approval process for the new country programme cycle;

3. *Takes note of* the highlights of UNDP country programme results and lessons learned, and *encourages* UNDP to continue to improve the quality of the content of this submission, including by using a format similar to the UNFPA country programme performance summary as well as appropriate evaluative information;

4. *Also recalls* its decision 2006/36 on the review of the country programme approval process and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to provide a short explanation of the reasons for the deferment of draft country programme documents from the annual session to the second regular session;

5. *Urges* UNFPA and UNDP to increase their efforts to present draft country programme documents for discussion at the annual session of the Executive Board, as per decision 2006/36.

25 June 2008

2008/12
Evaluation in UNFPA

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the periodic report on evaluation (DP/FPA/2008/10);

2. *Welcomes* the steps taken and planned by UNFPA to strengthen evaluation at all levels of the organization by developing an evidence-informed methodology to improve programming and by systematically engaging national stakeholders;

3. *Notes* with concern the decline in the quality of evaluations and *requests* UNFPA to further improve the quality of its evaluations by, inter alia, enhancing the quality of programme design and outcome assessments, increasing the use of evaluation results to improve programming and analysing the UNFPA contribution to development results;

4. *Notes* the UNFPA concern about the low rate of reported follow-up to country programme evaluations, and *urges* UNFPA to improve follow-up to such evaluations;

5. *Requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit periodic reports on evaluation in relation to the outcomes of the UNFPA strategic plan, 2008-2011, including lessons learned, impact on programmes, difficulties encountered and progress made, and the performance of the evaluation function;

6. *Further requests* the Executive Director of UNFPA to submit a report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on a comprehensive evaluation policy consistent with General Assembly resolution 62/208 and international best practices. In this regard, the Board *further requests* the Executive Director to keep the Board informed of the development of the evaluation policy, including through consultation with the Board at its first regular session 2009;

7. *Underlines* the importance of increasing the participation of national counterparts and strengthening national capacity in the evaluation and follow-up of UNFPA country programmes, *encourages* UNFPA to use national evaluation systems where available and to continue to incorporate capacity-building mechanisms into programme design and implementation, and *welcomes* progress attained in this regard;

8. *Notes* the endorsement in 2005 of the norms and standards for evaluation by the United Nations system through the United Nations Evaluation Group, constituting a contribution to strengthening evaluation as a United Nations system function;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of the independence and impartiality of the evaluation function within the United Nations system.

20 June 2008

2008/13
Internal audit and oversight (UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of:* (a) the report on internal audit and investigations in UNDP (DP/2008/20); (b) the report on UNFPA internal audit and oversight activities in 2007 (DP/FPA/2008/11); and (c) the report of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) on internal audit and oversight in 2007 (DP/2008/21);

2. *Welcomes* the focus on key and recurrent management issues, the clarity and format of the recommendations, and the risk-based audit planning in the internal audit reports;

3. *Recalls* decision 2006/19, and *requests* UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS to include in their respective audit and oversight reports: (a) a list of the key findings and the ratings, (b) a table displaying unresolved audit recommendations by year and category, and (c) an explanation of findings that have remained unresolved for 18 months or more;

4. *Calls upon* UNDP and UNFPA to further strengthen the national execution modality by addressing the operational risks and weaknesses identified in the audit reports, with particular attention given to capacity-building, and *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to inform the Executive Board of the implementation of the proposed actions;

5. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 62/208, which calls upon United Nations organizations to adopt measures that ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities, and to use, to the fullest extent possible, national execution and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in implementing operational activities by focusing on national structures and by avoiding, wherever possible, the practice of establishing parallel implementation units outside national and local institutions, and to continue to strengthen national execution, bearing in mind the importance of building national capacity and simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures, and in this regard *requests* UNDP and UNFPA to report to the Executive Board on actions and experiences in strengthening national execution;

6. *Requests* UNDP and UNFPA to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on progress made and lessons learned in implementing the harmonized approach to cash transfers, including in connection with the development of procedures, capacity-building and reporting mechanisms;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the harmonized and standardized use of audit ratings by UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations World Food Programme;

8. *Notes with concern* that the inter-fund balance and other outstanding issues between UNDP and UNOPS, referred to in decision 2007/27, have not yet been resolved, and *requests* UNDP and UNOPS to work with relevant partners to rapidly resolve these issues;

With regard to UNFPA,

9. *Notes with appreciation* the management response to the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2007, the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2007, and the updated status of the audit recommendations of the United Nations Board of Auditors on UNFPA accounts for the period ending 31 December 2005;

10. *Requests* that future annual reports on internal audit and oversight activities provide additional explanations of the significant audit results and their causes, identify the systemic issues of concern and provide more information on quality improvements in the oversight systems of UNFPA;

11. *Expresses* support for UNFPA implementation of the national execution modality in line with General Assembly resolution 62/208, and *encourages* strengthening national capacity in this regard;

12. *Expresses support* for the continued strengthening of the accountability and assurance process in UNFPA and the reorganization of its internal audit and oversight services, to sustain, inter alia, an adequate frequency and coverage of internal audits, and *urges* the Executive Director to continue to strengthen risk-based audit planning and to fill vacant posts in the Division for Oversight Services;

13. *Takes note* of efforts to implement the risk model in its regional and country offices and *encourages* UNFPA to further implement it at all management levels and across a broad range of risks;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the development of an enterprise risk management approach, and, in this regard, *calls upon* UNFPA to update the Executive Board on its progress at the annual session 2009;

15. *Welcomes* the commitment of UNFPA to improving its internal control framework, in line with internationally recognized best practices;

16. *Requests* the Executive Director to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with the internal control framework, in response to the findings of the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2007;

With regard to UNDP,

17. *Notes with appreciation* the management response to the report on internal audit and investigations in UNDP, the report of the Audit Advisory Committee for 2007, and the management response to that report;

18. *Expresses continuing support* for strengthening the internal audit and investigation functions of UNDP, and *urges* the Administrator to further strengthen risk-based audit planning and to rapidly fill vacant posts in the Office of Audit and Investigations;

19. *Expresses concern* that 13 per cent of the ratings in the internal audit reports are 'unsatisfactory', that some audit findings have remained unresolved for 18 months, and that there are investigation findings on the misconduct of staff members, and *requests* UNDP to report to the Executive Board at its annual session 2009 on the progress made in these areas, as part of the annual report on internal audit and investigations;

20. *Notes* the efforts of UNDP senior management to strengthen programmatic accountability and enhance the internal capacity of the organization to address compliance issues regarding prescribed regulations, rules and procedures, and supervision by managers at country office and regional levels, and *encourages* UNDP to continue to include in future reports a review of progress in this regard;

21. *Notes* improvements in the timeliness and quality, as well as the overall outcome, of national execution audit reports;

22. *Notes* that specific audit procedures and guidelines are being developed in response to the use of the harmonized approach to cash transfers, and *calls upon* UNDP to develop such procedures and guidelines in coordination with other United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and in consultation with programme countries;

With regard to UNOPS,

23. *Notes with appreciation* the management response to the UNOPS report on internal audit and oversight in 2007;

24. *Welcomes* the establishment in 2007 of the Internal Audit Office in UNOPS and the transition from the UNDP Office of Audit and Performance Review to the UNOPS Internal Audit Office;

25. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the Strategy and Audit Advisory Committee in UNOPS;

26. *Notes* the other initiatives in UNOPS that will strengthen audit and oversight, undertaken in response to the UNOPS report on internal audit and oversight;

27. *Notes* the submission by UNOPS of an accountability framework and oversight policy (DP/2008/22), and *requests* the Executive Director of UNOPS to revert to the Executive Board with this policy at the second regular session 2008, ensuring coordination and harmonization with UNDP and UNFPA.

26 June 2008

2008/14
Annual report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) report on UNDP performance and results for 2007, (DP/2008/23), (DP/2008/23Corr.1) and the statistical annex (DP2008/23/Add.2);

2. *Notes with concern* that the report presents data which shows that poverty eradication practice area did not receive top priority in terms of the percentage of total spending during 2007, and *emphasizes* that appropriate activities should be used to support direct poverty reduction initiatives;

3. *Urges* UNDP to undertake relevant poverty reduction activities, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review and to give top priority to achieving Millennium Development Goals and reducing human poverty;

4. *Reaffirms* the commitment of UNDP to results-based management and programming;

5. *Requests* UNDP to continue to include, in future reports, analytical information about strategic results, including programme and project results, as well as explanations of significant deviations from expected results;

6. *Also requests* UNDP to include in future reports, starting at the annual session of 2009, a comprehensive comparative analysis of spending for United Nations system coordination and programming;

7. *Takes note* of the report on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007, and *urges* UNDP to continue to pay particular attention to the recommendations relating to Human Resource management;

8. *Notes with concern* that 'earmarked' resources have continued to far exceed the regular resources of UNDP, and that this affects the ability of UNDP to fulfil its mandate adequately and to effectively support the development agenda of partner countries;

9. *Requests* UNDP to allocate sufficient levels of resources, both financial and staff, across the practice areas of the strategic plan, 2008-2011, with particular attention to least developed countries, in the context of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and to report in this regard at the annual session 2009;

10. *Urges* UNDP to give enhanced and appropriate priority to direct poverty reduction results while implementing the strategic plan, 2008-2011;

11. *Also requests* UNDP to submit a distribution of total expenditure by practice area and a distribution of regular resources expenditure by practice area at the annual session 2009 of the Executive Board;

12. *Further requests* UNDP to highlight, for each region, per capita programme expenditure and programme expenditure figures for the least developed countries in future reports.

27 June 2008

2008/15
Revised UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

The Executive Board

1. *Recalls* its decision 2007/32, particularly paragraphs 2 and 3;

2. *Takes note of* the revisions to the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, contained in document DP/2007/43/Rev.1 and its annexes.

26 June 2008

2008/16
Status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the report on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward (DP/2008/24);

2. *Notes* that after exceeding the annual targets for 2004 and 2005, but missing the annual target for 2006, UNDP has been able to meet the fourth and overall (2007) annual funding target of its second multi-year funding framework (2004-2007);

3. *Underscores* the vital importance of maintaining the 2007 level of regular resources in 2008, so as to enable UNDP to meet the first annual funding target outlined in the integrated resources framework of the strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of Operational Activities for Development of the United Nations System, *reiterates* that regular resources form the bedrock of UNDP finances, and *requests* all countries that have not yet done so to provide contributions to regular resources for 2008;

5. *Recognizes* that strengthening the role and capacity of UNDP to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires a commensurate increase in its resources and an expansion of its resource base on a continuous, more predictable and assured basis, as well as continuing improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact;

6. *Stresses* the importance of a stable, predictable base of regular resources, and *encourages* Member States in a position to do so to announce pledges, on a multi-year basis, and payment schedules for the new planning cycle covering the period 2008-2011, and to adhere to such pledges and payment schedules thereafter.

26 June 2008

2008/17
Annual report on evaluation (UNDP)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report on evaluation (DP/2008/25);

2. *Commends* UNDP for securing a predictable resource base from the core budget to support its independent evaluation function, and *underscores* the importance of ensuring quality through evidence-based evaluations and the continued independence of the Evaluation Office and its relationship with the Executive Board;

3. *Welcomes* the strengthening of the Evaluation Unit in the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and its work in drafting a corporate evaluation strategy to support the UNIFEM strategic plan, 2008-2011;

4. *Urges* the relevant evaluation units to provide additional information and analysis on the evaluation functions and activities of UNCDF, UNIFEM and the United Nations Volunteers programme in future annual reports on evaluation;

5. *Requests* the Administrator to increase oversight to improve the quality and implementation of country office evaluation plans, including, inter alia, the systematic updating and monitoring of evaluation plans, and the strengthening of regional and country office capacity and responsibility in evaluation design and methodology, while paying particular attention to regions with lower levels of country evaluation to ensure that there is sufficient coverage of evaluation of UNDP programming;

6. *Also requests* the Administrator to strengthen regional and country office capacities in results-based management, project design, monitoring and reporting, based on corporate tools, the design of clear, comprehensive terms of reference for evaluations, and improving the availability of resources and funding for regional and country level evaluations, including outcome evaluations;

7. *Urges* UNDP to strengthen senior management supervision and support for monitoring and evaluation by UNDP programme units, including the tracking of their management responses in follow-up to evaluations;

8. *Encourages* UNDP to continue to improve its submission and tracking of management responses;

9. *Acknowledges* the growing demand for UNDP to support national evaluation capacity development, and *requests* UNDP to continue to support national partners in developing capacities so as to exercise their national ownership in evaluation;

10. *Urges* UNDP to continue to improve its use of evaluation to support learning and a culture of results, and *requests* UNDP to provide a report to the Board on its follow-up to management responses, including follow-up actions on decentralized evaluations, at the annual session 2009;

11. *Approves* the assessments of development results and the activities to strengthen the evaluation function from the proposed programme of work for the Evaluation Office for 2008-2009;

12. *Requests* additional consultation with the Board on the new independent evaluations to be conducted by the Evaluation Office proposed in paragraph 85(b) in the programme of work for approval at the second regular session 2008;

13. *Stresses* the importance of clear linkages of subsequent programmes of work with the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011, while taking into account the need to provide sufficient descriptions on proposed independent evaluations to be conducted by the Evaluation Office and to hold informal consultations with Board members prior to formal sessions of the Executive Board.

27 June 2008

2008/18
Evaluation of net contributor countries in the Arab region

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the evaluation of UNDP in the net contributor countries of the Arab region (DP/2008/26), its corrigenda ((DP/2008/26/Corr.1 and DP/2008/26/Corr.2) and the management response to that evaluation (DP/2008/27);

2. *Requests* UNDP to include the Board in its consultations concerning the review and development of criteria for continued UNDP presence in a net contributor country;

3. *Urges* UNDP to give high priority to strengthening its support to net contributor countries in the area of capacity development, based on national priorities and systems, in order to strengthen the sustainability of its programming.

27 June 2008

2008/19

Evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness

The Executive Board

1. *Having considered* the evaluation of the contribution of the United Nations Development Group to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (DP/2008/28) and the management response thereto (DP/2008/29);

2. *Encourages* UNDP, in collaboration with other members of the United Nations Development Group, to make increased use of national systems, when appropriate and to the benefit of programme countries, in order to strengthen national capacities and reduce transaction costs;

3. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 62/208, which encourages the strengthening of evaluation activities, with particular focus on development results, including through the promotion of collaborative approaches to evaluation, including joint evaluations; and in this regard *encourages* UNDP to continue to conduct joint evaluations with other United Nations organizations on development effectiveness while retaining a focus on the accountability of UNDP, in order to increase the value of evaluation to programme countries;

4. *Also encourages* UNDP, after consultation with other relevant United Nations organizations, to undertake further informal consultations with the Executive Board to determine the appropriate intergovernmental forum for the evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

26 June 2008

2008/20
Annual report of the Executive Director

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) (DP/2008/32);

2. *Welcomes* the progress of UNOPS towards improving effectiveness and efficiency in line with its business strategy;

3. *Takes note of* the contributions to the operational results of the United Nations;

4. *Also takes note of* the 2007 UNOPS business acquisition, which demonstrates growing confidence on the part of UNOPS partners.

5. *Requests* the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNOPS to submit to the Executive Board a report on the governance structure of UNOPS for discussion at the second regular session 2008.

26 June 2008

2008/21
Results-oriented annual report of the Executive Director (United Nations Capital Development Fund)

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the results-oriented annual report (DP/2008/33) of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), including the section on the implementation of the UNCDF cost-recovery policy;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the contributions that UNCDF has been able to make to development outcomes in the least developed countries in the area of local development and inclusive finance, while implementing its business plan, 2005-2007: Investing in the LDCs;

3. *Notes with concern* that UNCDF did not reach its 2007 resource mobilization targets, even though there has been an upward trend in UNCDF regular and other resources;

4. *Reiterates* its request that UNDP and UNCDF continue their efforts to secure stable programme funding for UNCDF activities, and *reiterates* its call to donor countries, and other countries in a position to do so, to provide and sustain additional funding support for UNCDF programmes and activities in the least developed countries;

5. *Requests* the UNCDF management to report on the implementation of the cost recovery policy, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, for consideration at the second regular session 2009;

6. *Requests* the Administrator to appoint, as soon as possible, a new Executive Secretary for UNCDF.

27 June 2008

2008/22
United Nations Volunteers – Report of the Administrator

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Administrator on the United Nations Volunteers programme (DP/2008/34);

2. *Appreciates* the continued expansion of the scope and complexity of United Nations Volunteers programme activities and the progress made in operationalizing its business model and reporting on results and the related alignment of staff, resources and programming;

3. *Welcomes* the initiatives taken to develop new partnerships and enhance the substantive contributions made by the United Nations Volunteers programme to building capacities and promoting volunteerism in support of programme countries;

4. *Reiterates* its call on the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to continue efforts to integrate volunteerism into their policies, programmes and reports, including those relating to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

5. *Notes* that the United Nations Volunteers programme can effectively contribute, at the community level, to addressing environmental sustainability, including climate change, and *encourages* the United Nations Volunteers programme to engage in community-level natural resources management and climate mitigation and adaptation activities, upon request by programme countries.

6. *Notes, in that regard,* the catalytic role of resources from the Special Voluntary Fund in supporting pilot interventions and research to promote volunteerism for development;

7. *Also notes* that the contributions to the United Nations Volunteers Special Voluntary Fund reached $6.7 million in 2007, and *encourages* countries in position to do so to contribute to this fund to enable the United Nations Volunteers programme to further explore, expand and strengthen the role of volunteerism and volunteer contributions to development;

8. *Commends* the United Nations Volunteers programme for its results in gender parity at senior levels and among staff, as well as for its progress in programmatic gender mainstreaming;

9. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations system to increase their efforts towards achieving gender parity in the recruitment of United Nations Volunteers;

10. *Reaffirms* its support for the United Nations Volunteers programme as focal point for the follow-up to the International Year of Volunteers, in line with General assembly resolution 60/134, including leadership in reporting on follow-up.

26 June 2008

2008/23

United Nations Development Fund for Women –Annual report and cost recovery policy

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note of* the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) programme (DP/2008/35), and the response to decision 2008/3, which asked UNIFEM to report on the implementation of the cost recovery policy;

2. *Recognizes* the achievements towards the results identified in the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007, *welcomes* the significant growth in UNIFEM resources, and *calls upon* all countries in a position to do so to increase their contributions, especially to UNIFEM regular ('core') resources, including through multi-year pledges;

3. *Requests* UNIFEM to avoid using core resources to cover costs related to the management of extrabudgetary resources, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/208;

4. *Decides* that, and consistent with similar approaches in other United Nations funds and programmes, a recovery rate of 7 per cent be adopted for recovery of indirect support costs for new third-party contributions and a rate of 5 per cent on programme country cost-sharing contributions;

5. *Recognizes* that these cost recovery rates may be further refined to reflect a full cost recovery rate following consideration of this item by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2009;

6. *Requests* the Executive Director to report on the implementation of the cost recovery, including the impact of the applied rates on regular and other resources, as well as the use and allocation of indirect costs recovered, and with possible options of rate variations, taking into account execution modalities and management expenses, for consideration at that second regular session 2009, in conjunction with the medium-term review of the strategic plan and the submission of the biennial support, 2011;

7. *Stresses* that other ('non-core') resources should continue to support the UNIFEM strategic plan priorities and results, and *encourages* UNIFEM to monitor its cost-recovery policy to ensure that regular resources do not subsidize the support costs for projects and programmes funded by other resources;

8. *Decides* to maintain the authority of the Executive Director of UNIFEM to grant waivers to the cost recovery rate through a case-by-case review, taking into account the financial impact on the organization, and *requests* that UNIFEM inform the Executive Board of all exceptions in the annual financial reporting;

9. *Urges* UNIFEM to continue harmonizing its cost classification and cost recovery policy with other United Nations funds and programmes.

27 June 2008

2008/24
UNDP engagement in direct budget support and pooled funds

The Executive Board

1. *Takes note* of the report contained in document DP/2008/36;

2. *Welcomes* aid effectiveness aimed at ensuring the highest development impact, *recognizes* that country ownership and capacity building and development are fundamental elements of aid effectiveness, and, in this regard, *stresses* the role of UNDP in supporting developing countries in these processes;

3. *Recalls* resolution 62/208, in which the General Assembly encourages the United Nations development system to be invited to participate, ex officio, in current and new aid modalities and coordination mechanisms, at the request of the programme country, and invites the United Nations development system to enhance its participation in this regard;

4. *Stresses* the importance of building national capacity, simplifying procedures and aligning them with national procedures and regulations, *welcomes* the efforts of UNDP to

harmonize and align its activities in the context of the new aid environment, *encourages* UNDP to continue discussions on this approach within the United Nations Development Group, including the Bretton Woods Institutions, and to ensure adequate institutional staff training;

5. *Requests* UNDP to give preference to engagement in direct budget support, in the form of sector budget support, as a signatory, without fiduciary obligation, taking into account the views of programme countries;

6. *Endorses*, in principle, a four-year pilot period, starting in September 2008, for enabling UNDP financial contributions to pooled funding and sector budget support, on a case-by-case basis, upon the request of the recipient country and in accordance with the mandate and comparative advantage of UNDP, within the limitations and provisions provided in document DP/2008/36;

7. *Requests* UNDP to prepare an additional report for approval by the Executive Board at its second regular session 2008, including: (a) an update on the common approach among the United Nations Development Group towards the changing aid environment, (b) an analysis of the role of UNDP in the new aid environment, also in relation to other development partners, while emphasizing the further efforts of UNDP to achieve greater harmonization and alignment, and (c) a further elaboration of the criteria of engagement in sector budget support and pooled funding, and indicators to measure the effectiveness of this new aid modality;

8. *Urges* UNDP to sign the memorandum of understanding between the programme country and all participating development partners, which is the basis for the provision of sector budget support in that country;

9. *Approves*, for the duration of the pilot period, the proposed changes in the regulations and rules as contained in document DP/2008/36, including the requirements for direct financial contributions set out in box 1, taking into account the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and *recognizes* that these rules and regulations may be further refined, if necessary, in the context of the harmonized regulations and rules currently under consideration in the United Nations;

10. *Requests* UNDP, during the pilot period, to include a progress report on the pilot in the annual report of the Administrator, and an overview of contributions to pooled funding and sector budget support in the annual review of the financial situation;

11. *Also requests* UNDP to prepare a report at the end of the pilot period, including: (a) an evaluation and an audit of the pilot on the basis of the criteria outlined in document DP/2008/36, and (b) an update on UNDP efforts towards the harmonization of regulations and rules under consideration in the United Nations, including the changes needed to allow participation in pooled funding and sector budget support;

12. *Further requests* UNDP to organize regular informal consultations with the Executive Board on progress with the pilot and the preparation of the reports requested in the present decision.

27 June 2008

2008/25
Overview of decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session 2008

The Executive Board

Recalls that during its annual session 2008, it:

Item 1
Organizational matters

Approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2008 (DP/2008/L.2);

Approved the report of the first regular session 2008 (DP/2008/18); and

Agreed to the following schedule of future sessions of the Executive Board in 2008 and 2009:

Second regular session 2008:	8 to 12 September 2008
First regular session 2009:	19 to 22 January 2009
Annual session 2009:	26 May to 5 June 2009 (New York)
Second regular session 2009:	8 to 11 September 2009

Adopted the tentative work plan for the second regular session 2008 of the Executive Board.

UNFPA segment

Item 2
Annual report of the Executive Director

Adopted decision 2008/9 on the report of the Executive Director for 2007, including the statistical and financial review.

Took note of the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007 (DP/2008/23/Add.1-DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part II).

Item 3
Funding commitments to UNFPA

Adopted decision 2008/10 on funding commitments to UNFPA.

Item 4
Country programmes and related matters (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2008/11 on UNFPA and UNDP draft country programme documents.

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Benin (DP/FPA/DCP/BEN/7)
Draft country programme document for the Republic of the Congo (DP/FPA/DCP/COG/4)
Draft country programme document for Niger (DP/FPA/DCP/NER/7)
Draft country programme document for Nigeria (DP/FPA/DCP/NGA/6)

Arab States, Europe and Central Asia
Draft country programme document for Sudan (DP/FPA/DCP/SDN/5)

Approved the second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi (DP/FPA/2008/6) and the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan (DP/FPA/2008/8);

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan (DP/FPA/2008/8), Ecuador and Guatemala (DP/FPA/2008/7).

Item 5
Evaluation (UNFPA)

Adopted decision 2008/12 on evaluation in UNFPA.

Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

Item 6
Internal audit and oversight

Adopted decision 2008/13 on internal audit and oversight in UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

Item 7
Field visits

Took note of the report of the joint field visit of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to Haiti (DP/FPA/2008/CRP.1-E/ICEF/2008/CRP.11) and of the report on the field visit of the Executive Board of UNDP and of UNFPA to Kazakhstan (DP/2008/CRP.3-DP/FPA/2008/CRP.2).

UNDP segment

Item 8
Annual report of the Administrator

Adopted decision 2008/14 on the annual report of the Administrator;

Took note of the joint report of UNDP and UNFPA on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in 2007 (DP/2008/23/Add.1 – DP/FPA/2008/5 (Part II).

Item 9
UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011

Adopted decision 2008/15 on the revised UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2011.

Item 10
Funding commitments to UNDP

Adopted decision 2008/16 on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2008 and onward.

Item 11
Evaluation in UNDP

Adopted decision 2008/17 on the annual report on evaluation;
Adopted decision 2008/18 on evaluation of net contributor countries in the Arab region;
Adopted decision 2008/19 on the evaluation of the United Nations Development Group contribution to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Item 12
Human Development Report
Took note of the update on *Human Development Report* consultations (DP/2008/30).

Item 13
Country programmes and related matters (UNDP)

Took note of the following draft country programme documents and the comments made thereon:

Africa
Draft country programme document for Benin (DP/DCP/BEN/1)
Draft country programme document for Mauritius (DCP/DCP/MUS/2)
Draft country programme document for Nigeria (DP/DCP/NGA/1)

Arab States
Draft country programme document for Sudan (DP/DCP/SDN/1)

Took note of the one-year extensions of the country programmes for Afghanistan, Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Republic of Korea and the Turks and Caicos Islands, and approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Pakistan (DP/2008/31).

Item 14
United Nations Office for Project Services

Adopted decision 2008/20 on the annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services.

Item 15
United Nations Capital Development Fund

Adopted decision 2008/21 on the results-oriented annual report for 2007 of the Executive Director of the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

Item 16
United Nations Volunteers

Adopted decision 2008/22 on United Nations Volunteers – Report of the Administrator.

Item 17
United Nations Development Fund for Women

Adopted decision 2008/23 on the UNIFEM annual report and cost-recovery policy.

Item 18
Financial, budgetary and administrative matters (UNDP)

Adopted decision 2008/24 on UNDP engagement in direct budget support and pooled funds.

Item 19
South-South cooperation

Took note of the draft fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation (DP/CF/SSC/4).

Item 20
Other matters

Held a special event (panel discussion) on moving beyond commitments to deliver on Millennium Development Goal 5: the role of UNFPA and its partners;

Held a panel discussion on humanitarian response (UNFPA);

Held a briefing on the report of the external independent investigative review of UNDP operations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

TENTATIVE WORK PLAN
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA
SECOND REGULAR SESSION 2008
(8 to 12 September 2008, New York)

Day/date	*Time*	*Item*	*Subject*
Monday, 8 September	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	1	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Adoption of the agenda and work plan for the session • Adoption of the report on the annual session 2008
		7	UNFPA segment STATEMENT BY UNFPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UNFPA: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
	3 - 4 p.m.	7	UNFPA: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)
	4 - 6 p.m.	8	UNFPA: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Approval of country programmes • Extension of country y programmes • Draft country programme documents
Tuesday, 9 September	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	2	UNDP segment STATEMENT BY THE ADMINISTRATOR UNDP: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS • Annual review of the financial situation, 2007 • Information on United Nations system technical cooperation expenditures, 2007 • Revision of UNDP financial regulations • Report of the ACABQ on the revision of UNDP financial regulations • Report of IAPSO for the biennium 2006-2007 • Additional report on sector budget support and pooled funds • Briefing on budget-related issues (decision 2008/1)
	3 - 5 p.m.	2	UNDP: FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS (cont'd)
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*
Wednesday, 10 September	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	10	Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment INTERNAL AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT • UNDP accountability system (accountability framework and oversight policy) • UNFPA oversight policy • UNOPS accountability framework and oversight policy
		9	FOLLOW-UP TO UNAIDS PROGRAMME COORDINATING BOARD (PCB) MEETING • Joint UNDP/UNFPA report on follow-up to recommendations of the PCB meeting
	3 - 5 p.m.	3	**UNDP segment (cont'd)** EVALUATION • Evaluation of the UNDP global cooperation framework and management response • Evaluation of the UNDP role in and contribution to managing environment and energy for sustainable development and management response • Programme of work of the Evaluation Office
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Thursday, 11 September	10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	4	UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS • Approval of country programmes • Draft global programme document • Draft country programme documents • Extensions of country programmes • Assistance to Myanmar

	3 – 5 p.m.	5	UNOPS • Audited financial statements • Status report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors, 2004-2005 • Annual statistical report on the procurement activities of United Nations system organizations • Report on UNOPS governance structure
	5 – 6 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
Friday, 12 September	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.	6	SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION • Fourth cooperation framework for South-South cooperation
	3 – 4 p.m.		*Informal consultations on draft decisions*
	4 – 6 p.m.	11 1	OTHER MATTERS • Adoption of pending decisions ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS • Draft work plan for 2009 • Tentative work plan for the first regular session 2009